

2009-2010 Influenza Laboratory Update #1

The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL), in collaboration with our partners in Communicable Disease/Epidemiology, is issuing the attached guidance for **diagnostic** and **surveillance** testing for Influenza during this upcoming 2009-10 season.

The diagnostic testing guidance can be found at

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/documents/InfluenzaDiagnosticTestingGuidelines2009.pdf>

The surveillance testing guidance can be found at

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/documents/InfluenzaSurveillanceTestingGuidelines2009.pdf>

In the past, MTPHL confirmed the first 2 rapid test positive patients from each local jurisdiction to verify that seasonal Influenza is circulating. Because 2009 H1N1 is already circulating, we would like for you to reserve your fee-waived testing for seasonal Influenza confirmation. Sites will be notified when circulating seasonal Influenza is anticipated, and at that time you could use your fee-waived requisition forms. These special requisition forms and Viral Transport Media will be mailed to you in the near future, if you submitted confirmatory specimens last season.

Sentinel providers and hospital laboratories that will be asked to submit weekly surveillance specimens will be notified individually in a separate e-mail.

Please do not hesitate to contact the MTPHL if you have laboratory testing questions. You may call 1-800-821-7284 or e-mail to mtphl@mt.gov